

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are all the claims pending in the application and claims 1, 3 and 9 stand rejected.

Applicants thank the Examiner for accepting the formal drawings, acknowledging the claim for foreign priority and considering the references cited with the Information Disclosure Statement filed September 19, 2005.

Claim Objections - Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2, 4-8 and 10-12 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. However, the Examiner indicated these claims would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating the allowability of these claims if rewritten in independent form, but choose instead to hold any such rewriting in abeyance at this time.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1, 3 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Meier. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons set forth below.

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

a crossbar which is engaged with a substantially central part of said movable contactor from a side of said stationary contactors and which separates said movable contactor from said stationary contactors upon the operation of said switching mechanism section, a contact pressure spring which is engaged with said crossbar at one end and with the substantially central part of said movable contactor at the other end and which urges said movable contactor toward said stationary contactors.

In the rejection, the Examiner contends Meier's contact bridge carrier 11 corresponds to the recited crowbar. However, because Meier's contact bridge carrier 11 and fails to meet all the

features with respect to the recited crossbar, Applicants submit Meier fails to anticipate all the features recited in claim 1.

In particular, claim 1 recites “a crossbar which is engaged with a substantially central part of said movable contactor from a side of said stationary contactors.” However, although Meier’s contact bridge carrier 11 may be construed as being engaged with a central portion of the moving contact element 6 (*see* Fig. 1), it is not so engaged from a side of opposite fixed contacts 8. Rather, this contact bridge carrier 11 is engaged with the moving contact element 6 from the side opposite the fixed contacts 8. Thus, this feature of claim 1 is not disclosed by Meier.

Furthermore, in an exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the contact pressure spring 7 of this invention is arranged at the one side surface of the movable contactor 4 by the side of opposite with move direction in case the movable contactor 4 is separated from the stationary contactors 2, 3. Namely, the location of the contact pressure spring 7 is different from that of the contact compression spring 12 of Meier.

Therefore, the contact pressure spring 7 does not interfere when the movable contactor 4 is separated from the stationary contactors 2, 3, so that the magnitude of movement of the movable contactor 4 can be enlarged, and a breaking performance in a circuit opening mode can be enhanced. (please refer to the page 5, paragraph (0007] of specification.).

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over Meier for at least these reasons. Additionally, Applicants submit claims 3 and 9 are allowable, at least by virtue of their dependency.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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